

REMARKS**Prior Claim Restriction/Election**

The Examiner previously restricted the application. Claims 11-18 were withdrawn due to Applicant's election of claims for further prosecution. Applicant has cancelled claims 11-18 in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a divisional or continuation application.

Objection to the Title

The Examiner objects to the title stating that the title is not descriptive. Applicant has amended the title in a manner that is generally descriptive of the independent claims. Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,355,946 to Ishinaga (hereinafter Ishinaga). Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,355,946 to Matsubara et al. (hereinafter Matsubara).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ishinaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,638,780 to Fukasawa (hereinafter Fukasawa). Claims 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsubara in view of Fukasawa.

The Examiner points out in the Office Action that claim 8, which depends from claim 1, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In reliance upon this indication of allowability, base claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 8 and intervening claim 6. Claims 6 and 8 are therefore canceled. In light of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable for, at least, the reason stated above. Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 depend from base claim 1 and, hence, inherit all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim in addition to the novel and nonobvious limitations recited therein.

Claim 19 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 19 is allowable. Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and, hence, is also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if any additional fee is due, or at any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078, under Order No. 70020976-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 482708491US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: April 27, 2005

Typed Name: Gail L. Miller

Signature: Gail L. Miller

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Christopher S. L. Crawford

Reg. No. 51,586

Date: April 27, 2005

Telephone No. (214) 855-8378